REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 7th July 1877.

ADVERTING to the fearful prevalence of malarious fever in Garalgáchá, Krishnapore, and adjacent villages in sub-division Serampore and in some others in the Howrah sub-division, the Bhárat Sangskáruk, of the 15th June, asks Government to send medical aid without delay.

BHARAT SANGSKABAK, June 15th, 1877.

BHABAT SANGSKABAK.

- 2. We extract the following from an editorial in the same paper, headed "The Public Works Cess and the Government of India:"- "The Viceroy's reply to the memorial of the British Indian Association against the passing of the Public Works Cess Act is likely to raise two important questions in our minds:—(1) However bitter might be the complaints made by the people, and however strongly they might reason against it, Government never yields to them in anything which it has determined to carry out; so that one word uttered by it, weighs more than all the tears and arguments of the subjects. members of the Association were plainly told that the Bill could not be vetoed. as it had received the sanction of the Government, which had, moreover, suggested its introduction. (2) We have it in our ancient shástras that neither women nor rulers are to be believed. We cannot any longer believe in the words of our rulers. By an express enactment, the State made the permanent settlement of land with the zemindars of Bengal; solemnly pledging themselves not to levy even one extra cowrie from their estates. This pledge, which was made a hundred years ago, is now ignored. Does it remain to be seen, that it is the secret policy of the authorities anyhow to break the terms of the permanent settlement? What, however, is a matter of wonder is, that they will thus violate their pledges, and yet resent the charge of breach of faith, which may be brought against them; and it was because the Association made a suggestion of this nature, that the Viceroy has reproved them for their audacity. Then, shall the people under the British Government, while they suffer oppression, call it a favour? It seems to be thought by many, that a change has come over the sincere and generous policy of Government in the administration of this country, ever since the Queen assumed the title of 'Empress of India.' The rulers will now oppress the people, and yet demand a most unswerving loyalty. We hope Government will lose no time in using means to disabuse the public mind of this impression; an unjust and merciless exercise of power is always exceedingly reprehensible, especially in the present case, where the poor tenantry, and not the well-to-do zemindars, will have to suffer."
- 3. In two letters, written to this paper, the writers dwell on the extortions practised by the police constables, in connection with the impounding of cattle in than a Joynugger, in the sub-division of Barripore.

BHARAT SANGSEARAE. SAMACHAR, June 25th, 1877. 4. The Sahachar, of the 25th June, thus remarks on Mr. Whitley Stokes' speech on codification, and his observations on the High Court of India and the Legislative Council:—

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"We do not at all agree with the hostile observations made by Mr. Stokes respecting the High Court. According to him, the members of the Legislative Council are in many respects better qualified than the Court. But how? The High Court, composed as it is of Civilian Judges, who possess experience and knowledge of the manners and customs of the people, and of Barrister Judges, who are men of profound scholarship and legal attainments, is so admirably fitted for the work of interpreting the laws, that the Legislative Council will stand no comparison with it in this respect. Nay more, were it not for the fact that the High Court is the authorized interpreter of the law, the learning and intelligence occasionally displayed by the legislators would prove exceedingly injurious to the people. We repeat, that the knowledge possessed by the Civilian Judges of the mofussil, the learning and experience of its Native Judges, and the profound erudition and legal acumen of the Barrister Judges, have united to make the High Court really a temple of justice. The Indian Legislative Council, on the other hand, does not possess any one of the above qualifications. Its President is a British peer utterly ignorant of the country; and of his Council, the law member is generally a raw Englishman newly come to India, and appointed to the post by virtue of some powerful patronage at home. If they be men of intelligence and abilities and prove industrious while here, they generally succeed. Mr. Stokes is now the law member; and patronage has perhaps elevated him to his present position. We do not know anything about his learning or intelligence; but one is indeed tempted to question it from observing his hostile remarks regarding the learning of the Judges of the High Court, especially of the Barrister Judges. So much for the two important members of the Council. Of the rest, one is an old soldier, and the other of no note or consequence. Living for half the year in their retreat on the top of the Simla hills, it is these who enact laws for the whole of India and attend to her welfare. We do not see how they could be abler men than the Judges of the High Court. They have indeed, one advantage which is not possessed by the latter, in the work of legislation: they are aided by the advice and opinions of many competent persons and the public. But such aid appears to be of no purpose; seeing that public opinion and remonstrance are often disregarded. The passing of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill by Lord Northbrook, in the teeth of the united and strong protestations offered to the measure, fully bears out the truth of our remark. We have not, therefore, the least hesitation in affirming that the High Court is far superior to the Legislative Council, to which, if it is really intended to legislate with advantage, some of the Judges should be appointed as members. The policy of Government is, however, opposed to this; and Mr. Stokes, proud of his office, is only its interpreter. The sentiments, however, which are contained in the concluding portion of his address are really ominous for the country. What does he mean by saying that 'the ability and learning of the Judges will steadily deteriorate as the pecuniary attractions of India diminish.' Does he mean that the salary of the Judges shall be so reduced, as to preclude the possibility of all really competent men from seeking the Judgeship of any Indian High Court? And the reason why this reduction shall be made is perhaps this, that Government, with the aid of Mr. Stokes, will so simplify the law by means of codification, that there will be no longer any need of learned men to expound it. As no one at the present day requires Watt to drive his steam-engine, for everybody can do so easily, so even ordinary police officers will be able to handle the machinery of law, and there will no more be any need of the learning of a Peacock, Couch, or Garth. Mr. Stokes would not have expressed such sentiments, had it not been the policy of Government, which was thus expounded. The Judges of the High Court have not certainly come to this country to make money by means of trade; nor do they belong to the class of indigo or tea planters; then why should their income be reduced? An adequate salary will always attract deserving and competent men to India. What, then, is the meaning of Mr. Stokes' speech? It is this -that Government is seeking to bring the High Courts under their control. There is no doubt that such is their intention. It is for this that the work of codification is being fast proceeded with. It is for this that the Secretary of State sought to introduce a Bill on this subject into Parliament. For this the Presidency Magistrates' Act and the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill were framed. For the same reason also the Judges of the Indian High Courts have been declared by the Secretary of State as holding their office according to Her Majesty's pleasure, and not, like their brethren in England, so long as their conduct is unimpeached. In India the pleasure of Her Majesty of course means the pleasure of a frivolous-minded Viceroy. In short, the High Court has this time fallen into the hands of the Government. Woe to India!"

5. The same paper writes the following in an article headed "The Civil Service and India":—" If the British Government had hitherto any doubts as to the opinion of the people on the illiberal policy pursued in connection with this subject, it must have been removed by the resolutions adopted at the meetings lately held at Lahore and Amritsar. Our rulers have a number of pills ready for us. When they cannot refute our arguments, they invariably send us back with the reply that 'we are too obstinate to understand,' or that 'the matter has been already settled.' Should the case be one of palpable injustice, so that there is not one argument in its favour, the answer is that 'the opinion of a few Bengalis cannot be regarded as the opinion of the country'—that is, since the warlike races of India choose to remain quiet, Government can afford to disregard the opinion of the peaceful Bengalis. But what will the Government say now, when even the Hindusthanis and Punjabees have adopted the memorial of the Indian Association? Why should we fear to speak the truth? Government does not wish to see the natives of India gain admission into the Covenanted Civil Service; and hence the present rules made by Lord Salisbury."

6. The Hindu Ranjiká, of the 27th June, has an editorial headed, "The Poverty of the Bengalis and the Means of removing it." After dwelling on the progress the country has made in all directions, ever since its conquest by the British and the spread of English education among the people, the writer points out the difficulties that now stand in the way of their further advancement. These are:—(1) infant marriages, (2) joint Hindu families, (3) the low state of arts, commerce, and agriculture, (4) the degraded position of native females, and (5) an increase of population.

7. Adverting to Mr. Gladstone's speech in Parliament, that England should not by any means help, but rather follow a policy of coercion towards Turkey, for the notorious oppression and injustice which characterize that Government in its treatment of the Eastern Christians, the Bishwa Dút, of the 27th June, remarks that, though everybody admits the truth of this view, still the English cannot with propriety tax Turkey with injustice. "They themselves oppress the harmless natives of India, and laws are enacted for

SAHACHAB, June 25th, 1877.

HINDU RANJIKA, June 27th, 1877.

BISHWA DUT, June 27th, 1877.

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the people, and not for themselves. They have committed many murders, but how many Englishmen have we seen suffer the extreme penalty of the law for this crime?—nay, how many have been seen to suffer even imprisonment? Some of the offenders have said before the Court, that they had shot their victims, because they had mistaken them for birds. The other day an English. man shot down, with his revolver, no less than three or four persons; but stated in his defence that the recollection of the Cawnpore massacres had so wrought upon him as to lead him to commit this atrocious deed. Then there is the plea of a diseased spleen, which serves many purposes. Since such is the way in which justice is administered in this country between Europeans and natives, it were wise for Mr. Gladstone to have desisted from proclaiming to the world the shortcomings of Turkey."

Lord Beaconsfield's favourable attitude towards Turkish interests is construed by the same paper as proceeding from a wish that Turkey should stand as the example of a Government oppressing its subjects; that by this means might be always excused the oppressions and injustice committed by

the English on the people of India.

BHABAT MIHIB, June 28th, 1877. Circulation about 650.

The Bhárat Mihir, of the 28th June, refers to the gradual abolition of the Native Civil Service examinations, introduced by Sir George Campbell; and the selection of some native gentlemen by the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the post of Deputy Magistrate. These have not had to pass any examination. It is, however, exceedingly necessary to prescribe a test for candidates desirous of entering the Subordinate Executive Service; as by this means alone can its efficiency be secured and its tone improved. The test should be similar to that which obtains in the Subordinate Judicial Service; and everything in connection with its management should be left to the control of the University. None but B. A.'s should be held as eligible candidates.

BHARAT MIHIB.

The same paper has the following, in its correspondence columns, under the heading "Famine in Chittagong":- "Chittagong is in a very miserable condition this time; and it is to be feared that it will sink into the bottom of the Indian Ocean. Almost all the people here are agriculturists; and the late unseasonable rains having utterly destroyed the crops, and their stores of grain having been consumed, they are now put to great difficulties and are left without money or grain. Rice sells from seven to eight seers the rupee. The middle, though poor, classes of the people are begging from door to door. In a Mahomedan family of Satkania consisting of a man, his wife, and five children, the former committed suicide, being unable to endure the sight of the misery of the little ones from starvation."

AMBITA BAZAR June 28th, 1877.

- 10. In the course of an editorial on the Eastern question and entitled "The Hindus and the Mahomedans," the Amrita Bazar Patriká, of the 28th culation about 2,217. June, has the following observations:-
 - "If the morality of the Turkish nation had not been higher than that of the European races, there would not have been any occasion for war or danger. There would have been no danger to Turkey, if the Sultan, in total disregard of his British allies and the gratitude which he owed them, had joined the Russians. He is charged with the oppression of his Christian subjects; but it should be borne in mind that the oppressions of the Turkish Government have not yet exterminated any race or noble family. It really excites surprise to notice that the Christians, who have well nigh depopulated America and Australia, who are poisoning with opium the people of China, whose rigorous rule has emasculated millions of human beings,

should call the Mahomedans a nation of oppressors. The question as to what nation, or the followers of what creed, are the most given to the practice of oppression is never likely to be decided in this world; for there does not exist any nation which is more powerful than the Europeans."

We extract the following from an editorial in the Moorshedabad Patriká, of the 29th June: - " As the British Government of India is increasing in years, the liberty of the people is being more and more curtailed; so that living under this Government has become nothing less than a state of tutelage in the pathshala of a Guru Maháshaya. No one is allowed to be born or to die in quiet; the matter must be brought to the notice of the authorities. You must take out a pass for marriage, or for the ceremony of giving your son the first grain of rice; you cannot have feasting, dancing, music, or even a social gathering, without a pass. A pass is necessary to celebrate a Nagar Sankirtana, to let off fireworks, and even to prepare any medicine in which sulphur may be used. Licenses are necessary to the vending of spirituous drugs and liquors, and to theatrical performances. Not to speak of guns and swords, even a dozen clubs, for the purpose of driving away dogs and jackals, must not be kept in any house without a pass. Our liberty is so much curtailed under the British Government that it is not safe either to sneeze, cough, or breathe without a pass."

The writer then refers to the rise in the price of rice in Moorshedabad, from large quantities of grain being continually sent to Calcutta by rail; and the unwillingness of the authorities to interfere on the score of free-trade

principles.

12. The Grámbártá Prakáshiká, of the 30th June, dwells on the oppressions, committed by the planters on emigrant laborers, in spite of the laws which Government has enacted on their behalf. Large numbers of ignorant men and women are decoyed into the plantations by the cunning recruiters, who hold up to them prospects of higher wages and other comforts. It is to be regretted that, though the subject has been repeatedly brought to their notice, the authorities have not yet effectually interfered on behalf of these victims of oppression, perhaps either from a fear of offending the interests of the planters, or from the absence of any trustworthy information on the point. The editor, therefore, urges on Government the need of appointing a number of spies, with a view to bring to light the oppressions committed on the laborers.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, June 30th, 1877. Circulation about 200.

MOORSHEDABAD

PATRIKA,

June 29th, 1877.

The Hindu Hitoishini, of the 30th June, notices the irregularities in the despatch and delivery of letters and newspapers by the post-offices in the mofussil. The offices at Jagdebpore, Idilpore, Srínagar, Patia, and others are mentioned as demanding enquiry.

HINDU HITOISHINI, June 30th, 1877. Circulation about 300.

The same paper observes, in reference to the murder of the zemin- HINDU HITOISHINI. dar, Baboo Nabín Chandra Nág, by his refractory tenants, that the policy of viewing the tenantry with indulgence, which has lately come into fashion, has increased their audacity. They are fully aware of the advantages of their position. Though formerly the ryots were more ignorant than their successors of the present day, there were no disputes between them and their landlords. The ryots hold durbars, possess the advantage of occasionally coming into contact with the authorities, many of whom consider it necessary to humour them. A large number also have learnt to read and write; while almost all are placed above want. Then why should they not grow andacious? The little learning they pick up in the schools puffs them up with pride and leads them to give up their ancestral occupation. The growing

spirit of insubordination manifested by them should be, however, promptly curbed by Government.

HINDU HITOISHINI, June 30th, 1877. Circulation about 300. 15. The same paper directs the attention of the authorities to the high price of rice in parts of Chittagong, which occasions exceeding difficulty to the inhabitants. Relief is urgently needed.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

16. In observing that the relation between a sovereign and his subjects is similar to that which exists between a parent and his child, the same paper contrasts the treatment which the subjects received at the hands of the ancient Hindu kings with the position of the people under the British Government. Unlike the ancient kings of India, the British rulers make an invidious distinction between their subjects, founded on their creed and color. This causes grievous injustice to the children of the soil.

SADHABANI, July 1st, 1877. Circulation about 516. 17. The Sádháraní, of the 1st July, deplores the complete absence of sympathy between educated young natives and the uneducated mass of their countrymen, whose company is always shunned by them as if they were some low creatures. This state of things is really saddening, and augurs ill for both parties.

SADHARANI.

18. Referring to the case of Mákhan Kumár of Burdwan, who has been sentenced by the High Court to be hanged, in opposition to the verdict of the jury and the judgment of Mr. Justice Markby, the same paper observes with regret that the system of trial by jury has been, much to the injury of the people, reduced to a mockery by the present Criminal Procedure Code.

Soma Prakash, July 2nd, 1877. Circulation about 700 19. The Soma Prakásh, of the 2nd July, regrets the speech of Mr. Gladstone at Birmingham; and observes that it is singularly unfortunate that the public opinion of England should now be divided on a question of such vital importance, as the independence, and even the existence, of the Turkish power in Europe. It is strange that, ruled by party spirit, such a profound statesman as Mr. Gladstone is not able to see that he is playing into the hands of Russia, who is gradually extending her territories in the direction of India. Nor does he, in his eagerness to benefit the Eastern Christians, seem to think that the interests of England—nay, of the whole civilized world—will be jeopardized in case Turkey ceases to exist as an independent power. Taken in this connection, Russia's advance towards India, and the attitude of the Amir of Afghanistan towards the Government, really afford matter for serious consideration.

SOMA PRAKASH.

20. The same paper asks Government to call for the papers in the case of Mákhan Kumár, lately decided by the High Court, and consider it carefully. It is an important case, wherein the unanimous verdict of the jury has been disregarded, and the accused sentenced to undergo the extreme penalty of the law.

SOMA PRAKASII.

21. The same paper condemns the action of the local authorities in the case of Hari Mohan Ganguli versus Stack of the Dacca College. The former was most unjustly suspended from his appointment, simply because he had sued Mr. Stack, against the wishes of the Commissioner and the Principal, Mr. Ewbank. Then, again, the case has been transferred from the court of the Moonsiff to that of the District Judge, a proceeding for which there is not the slightest justification.

SOMA PRAKASH.

22. A correspondent of the same paper observes that Government would do well to create such a post as that of Inspector-General of Municipalities. The affairs of these last are extremely mismanaged; the district

and the sub-divisional officers, who are generally appointed to preside at their meetings, are so over-worked that they have hardly any leisure to look after them.

The Banga Hitaishi, of the 2nd July, dwells on the oppressions committed on the emigrant laborers on the tea plantations. While there

they do not fare better than convicts in penal settlements.

24. The Sulabha Samáchár, of the 30th June, asks Government to place the native newspapers on the same footing as those published in English, Circulation about 3,000. with regard to the supply of official papers, and by making them post-free to encourage the publishers. The cause of primary education also will be promoted in this way.

July 2nd, 1877.

BANGA HITAISHI,

SULABHA SAMACHAB, June 30th, 1877.

> URDU GUIDE, June 26th, 1877.

25. The Urdu Guide translates, from the Delhi Gazette, the reply said to have been given by the Amir of Cabul to the envoy sent from Turkey, proposing that assistance should be rendered to the Sultan, and proceeds to offer the following reply to the reasons given by the Amír for refusing assistance. He is surprised to find so wise and discreet a man giving such unintelligible reasons, and detracting as he does, from the respect due to the envoy. The protection which the Sultan does, and can, give is for the sake of the two sacred places, which are common to all Muhammadans; and the Amír is quite wrong in saying that those only should assist Turkey, who have derived aid from it. For instance, witness the question of the Duke of Sutherland's committee (who are Christians) for the aid of the sick and wounded among the Turks. Turkey has no claim upon them, either for former benefits done, or for any advantages derived from the protection of Mecca and Medina; whereas the Sultan spends lakhs of rupees for these two sacred places for the religious benefit of all Muhammadans, amongst whom are the Afghans. The Amir next complains that Turkey gave him no assistance when his father, Dost Muhammad, was imprisoned and sent to Calcutta. To this the answer is, that in the first place no aid was ever sought; and secondly, if sought, it would have been refused; because, according to the Muhammadan law of religion, it would be improper to assist a man, like Dost Muhammad, against his own lawful king and master; and the English too acted consistently with this principle; but if, after the death of Sháh Shujaá-ul-mulk and the extinction of the Durání dynasty, when Dost Muhammad became the recognized ruler of Cabul, any aid had been asked from and refused by Turkey, the present Amir of Cabul might justly have had cause of complaint. The same holds good with reference to Samarkand and Bokhárá, which entered into separate alliances and treaties with Russia, without consulting the Sultan. Turkey has always been called by Russia and its friends the sick man; and the Amir of Cabul too has thought it to be fast asleep: but those only who have their eyes about them have observed its acts, and history can tell what great deeds have been done by the successive Sultans in every century; and how, even in the present time, it has been alive to, and watchful of, its own interests; and has at great trouble and expense prepared a navy which has now proved itself so very useful: else long ere this would Russia have come from the Black Sea and made an end of Turkey, Asia Minor, and Persia. Again, with reference to the allusion made to Hindustan, it has to be said that the circumstances attending this are so full of sadness and grief, that no one should allude to, or even think of making allusion to it; for Hindustan fell into the hands of the English through the want of unanimity amongst, and negligence of, the Hindustanis, the invasion of the Duránis and spoliation by them, and through the

cowardice of the Pathán sardárs of the army. English aid was solicited by the native princes to put down their own subjects; and eventually their country fell into the hands of the English. What has the Sultan to do with this? The other objections advanced by the Amir are of a similar nature; and it is not worth while taking the trouble to refute them. According to the account given in the Englishman and the Civil and Military Gazette, the editor of the Urdu Guide wishes to know whether the Amir of Cabul has

been changing his tactics.

The Sultan in deputing his envoy to the Amir of Cabul, amongst other observations, has remarked, that it is much to be regretted that the Amir thought fit to ally himself to Russia and listen to its counsel, and alienate himself from Great Britain; for this is that Russia which does not deal fairly with even its own co-religionists. Cabul, by keeping on friendly terms with England, will preserve the respect and security of both parties, whilst with Russia it will only be productive of fraud and deceit. Cabul should endeavour for the future to join itself with Bokhárá and oppose Russia. In this way may the Sultan derive much aid; for then the army, now being sent by Russia against Turkey, will be weakened. Cabul is well aware of the present state of Turkey, and nothing further need be said than that Sher Ali should delay no longer in giving the necessary assistance. Russia is the enemy of Islam; so that if Cabul proclaims a jahád against it, Sher Ali's name will become enrolled amongst those of famous kings; and the Sultan will, in recognition of such aid in the defence of religion, raise up a standard for him, and grant the Cabul envoy a place in the Durbar of Turkey; but let not Cabul act in such a way as to have to feel the effects of its action both now and hereafter.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

The 7th July 1877.

Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the week ending the 7th July 1877.

	Name.	Place of publication.		Monthly, we or otherw		Date.
-	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiniá, Rungpore		Weekly		24th May 1877.
	"Bengal Advertiser"	Colombia		Ditto	•••	20th June 1877.
	"Bhárat Sangskárak"	D:44-		Ditto		25th ditto.
1	"Sahachar"	Ditto		Ditto	•••	25th ditto.
	"Bishwa Dut"	Taliguni, Calcutta		. Ditto		27th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Danulash Dáisháhma		Ditto	•••	27th ditto.
7	"Bhárat Mihir"	Win-ah		Ditto	•••	28th ditto.
8	"Amrita Bázár Patriká"	N-1		Ditto	•••	28th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly		Ditto		29th ditto.
0	" Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore		Ditto	•••	29th ditto.
ĭ	"Pratikár"	D:44.		Ditto	•••	29th ditto.
2	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto		Ditto	•••	29th ditto.
3	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Calcutta		Ditto	•••	30th ditto.
4	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly		Ditto	•••	30th ditto.
5	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca		Ditto		30th ditto.
6	"Dacca Prakásh"	Ditto		Ditto	•••	1st July 1877.
7	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah		Ditto	• • • • •	1st ditto.
8	"Sádháraní"	Oh!		Ditto	•••	1st ditto.
9	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhowanipore		Ditto		2nd ditto.
0	"Banga Hitaishi"	Ditto		Ditto	•••	2nd ditto.
1	"Sambad Bhaskar"	Calcutta	•••	Ditto	***	2nd ditto.
2	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	•••	Daily	•••	30th June to 7th July 1877.
3	"SambádPúrnachandrodaya"	Ditto		Ditto	•••	28th ditto to 5th ditto.
24	" Bangavidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	•••	Ditto	•••	2nd July to 6th ditto.
25	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Ditto	•••	Weekly		30th June 1877.
26	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna		Ditto	•••	4th July 1877.
7	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian.)	Calcutta	•••	Ditto	•••	29th June and 6th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

